



NANOOSE BAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Code of Conduct 2009-10

"Enhancing our children's moral intelligence is our best hope for getting our kids on the right course so that they do act as well as think right." (Michelle Borba, 2001)

At Nanoose Bay Elementary we believe that it is important to develop the heart and educate the mind. We are working to develop a community which cultivates compassion, within which students recognize that rights and responsibilities are interdependent and that at any given moment they have the power to choose to be helpful, caring and compassionate.

At Nanoose Bay Elementary we celebrate and are guided by 'The Virtues Program', an international **Character Education Program** that seeks to honour and respect every child. We actively teach and promote school wide virtues that illuminate and promote positive, universal character traits. We base our discipline system and Code of Conduct on the following virtues:

Respect: Students will treat others as they would like to be treated. They will use courtesy and kindness to communicate with one another. They will respect the rights, feelings, property and safety of all persons.

Responsibility: Students will make dependable choices and be accountable for their actions.

Cooperation and Peacefulness: Students will cooperate with others and help to create a playground that is safe, peaceful and enjoyable for everyone.

We believe:

- that children want to be helpful, that positive behaviours can be learned, and that teaching socially responsible behaviours requires modeling, time, consistency and practice;
- it is **our responsibility** to provide a **SAFE, ORDERLY, and CARING** learning environment for all Nanoose Bay children;
- that parents and school staff should work together to promote and model **RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, COOPERATION and PEACEFULNESS**;
- in behavioural strategies that are both educative and restorative;
- that the manner in which we respond to unacceptable behaviour is key to supporting a young person in making the positive changes required; we believe in an approach that encourages children to 'grow their virtues';
- that "discipline" is not something that happens to "bad students", but rather that it is based on clear and compassionate guidelines that assist and support students who are making mistakes/poor choices;
- that our students are both individuals, and members of families. As a result, in cases where significant behaviour intervention is required, we will work closely with parents to develop common understandings to support each other at school, and at home;
- that students who are unable to respond appropriately to the proactive measures embedded in our culture will be subject to other disciplinary processes.

Consequences for Socially Unacceptable Behaviour:

We are responsible for providing a safe environment for **all** of our students. Therefore, we will not tolerate **any behaviour that compromises the physical or emotional well-being of self or others**. In the event of unacceptable behaviour, appropriate consequences or disciplinary action will follow. Teachers and administrators will determine the appropriate consequences and course of action.

The criteria for determining appropriate consequences will:

- be made known to the offender and be applied in the event the unacceptable behaviour is repeated;
- be in keeping with the child's developmental level;
- be dependent on the nature of the behaviour, including its intent, severity and frequency;
- include possibilities for restoring relationships;
- maintain the dignity of all parties.

Consequences may include:

- a letter of apology, acts of kindness, community or school service;
- establishing a behaviour contract;
- a regular, formal review of behaviour together with parent/student/teacher conferences;
- completion of a 'think sheet' by student (and sent home to parents);
- a detention, or an in-school or formal suspension. (Parents receive written notification regarding formal suspensions. A copy of the letter for a formal suspension is kept in the student's file).

The following are examples of behavior which is unacceptable at NBES and could result in suspension:

- Wilful disobedience, defiance; deliberately misleading adults in authority
- Stealing; deliberate dishonesty
- Bringing weapons, explosives, laser pointers or illegal substances onto the school property
- Fighting, intimidating, harassing, threatening, or bullying

We encourage and expect children to develop personal problem solving skills. We teach them the acronym 'TWA' as a simple way for them to independently resolve conflicts.

TWA =

1. **TELL THEM TO STOP.**
2. **WALK AWAY FROM THE PROBLEM.**
3. **ASK AN ADULT FOR ASSISTANCE.**

TWA is part of our larger focus on making our school a **safe** and **nurturing** environment.

NBES MISSION STATEMENT ON BULLYING

Nanoose Bay Elementary School is an "environment" free of bullying behaviour.

We work together to:

- Resolve conflict peacefully;**
- Include others in all activities;**
- Respect differences.**

At NBES we have a **school-wide focus on bullying**. All of our Grade 4/5 students have been to an anti-bullying presentation by "Creating Solutions", an organization at the forefront of anti-bullying education. We are teaching students to identify bullying behaviour, and give them strategies to deal with it. We believe that by teaching all students to be respectful, friendly and compassionate, it will go a long way toward building a caring and bully-free culture.

All children are the victims of occasional teasing behaviour or aggression, but some children are repeatedly targeted. Bullying is this repeated exposure to negative actions. Bullying means that there is an imbalance of power so that the child being victimized has trouble defending himself or herself. If you have any information or concerns about student conduct at school, particularly around issues of safety and bullying, please discuss them immediately with your child's teacher or the administration. In accordance with School District 69 Board of Education Policy, serious cases of bullying may result in school suspension.

Parent Involvement:

We encourage and celebrate parent involvement with their children's education. We know that good communication between school and home as well as parents' active interest in our school community makes a difference in their child's social and academic progress.

BC Human Rights:

The Nanoose Bay Elementary School community supports the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code respecting the rights of all individuals in accordance with the law – prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical and mental disability, sex or sexual orientation.

Prevention of Retaliation:

All reasonable steps will be taken to prevent retaliation against a student who has made a complaint of a breach of a code of conduct.

Special Consideration:

In application of our school's Code of Conduct, special considerations may apply to students with Special Needs if those students are unable to comply due to having a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioral nature.